



Foggy Bottom News

May 2002

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and the West End

Volume 44, No. 7

Property Tax Relief Bill Passed

By Jack Evans

The D.C. Council passed the "Owner-Occupied Residential Tax Credit Emergency Act of 2002" by a vote of 12 to 1 (Councilmember Harold Brazil voted in opposition). This measure prevents property tax bills for owner-occupied residential property from rising more than 25% in any one year. The Mayor included it in his proposed budget for fiscal year 2003 that he presented to the D.C. Council on Monday, March 18.

The cap applies to the tax bill but not the assessment. As a result, over the next few years, you will likely pay property taxes based on the market rate of your house.

Many taxpayers were shocked when they opened their mail and saw how their assessed property values had soared—some increases more than 50%. Much of the increase stems from the change from the old system where property assessments were evaluated once every three years to a new system with annual evaluations. Most of Ward 2 is affected by the change for the first time this year. Nearly every section of Ward 2 that was re-assessed this year experienced an average increase over 25% and many areas experienced increases much higher than that. I suspect next year we will see many Ward 2 neighborhoods face significant increases again.

I think everyone would like to see a system that accurately reflects market values, which have indeed been surging in the last few years in the District. But in the final analysis, we can't continually raise taxes on citizens (due to rising assessments) and expect people to stay in the District when our tax burden is so much higher than surrounding jurisdictions. Our actual property tax rate is comparable to neighboring jurisdictions but due to the hot real estate market, the assessments have increased dramatically.

Property Tax Hearing Set for May 15

The Committee on Finance and Revenue, which I chair, will hold a public oversight hearing on the property tax assessment process and property tax rates. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue. The purpose of this public oversight hearing is to provide the Council with the opportunity to review the District's property tax assessment process, property tax rates, and comparisons of the District's process to other jurisdictions, and to receive testimony from the executive branch about these topics. If you wish to testify, contact Schannette Grant at 724-8058 or sgrant@dccouncil.washington.dc.us, and provide your name and organizational affiliation, if any, by 12:00 noon, Monday, May 13. I think the Council would benefit from the continued input of citizens on the assessment process and about the tax rates themselves.

Monsignor Roeltgen Dies April 7

Monsignor Kenneth W. Roeltgen, 54, pastor of St. Stephen Martyr Church on Pennsylvania Avenue, died April 7 in Sibley Hospital. He had suffered for some months from cancer.

Father Ken, as he liked to be called, came to Foggy Bottom in September, 1997, succeeding Father Thomas J. Sheehan. Just prior to this assignment, he had been Rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. During his priestly career he served at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Maryland, at Immaculate Conception Church in Washington, and as Archdiocesan Director of Vocations. He also was a member of the Marriage Tribunal and the Priests' Personnel Board. He was scheduled to become pastor of Annunciation Church on April 5.

Monsignor, to page 2

Cathy Miller's Day Care Closes May 15

Natural Daycare, Foggy Bottom's "Oasis of Love" for tots, is closing its doors on May 15, according to Catherine Miller, its Director. The childcare center has been located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for 27 years, beginning as a Montessori School and more recently a regular daycare center.

The closing is the result of several factors, the most important being St. Paul's plans

Daycare, to page 7

Federal Judge Grants 70% Delay Order Affirms D.C.'s Zoning Rights

The ruling by the U.S. District Court, issued on April 12, grants George Washington University a delay in implementing a housing requirement in the Campus Plan, but affirms the constitutionality of the District's zoning regulations as to campus land use. The university had brought this case against the Board of Zoning Adjustment's 2000-2010 campus plan.

The requirement delayed by the court specified that 70% of undergraduates had to be housed within the campus boundaries or outside of Foggy Bottom by the fall of 2002. Judge Louis Oberdorfer said that a review of the record "persuades me that this requirement is unconstitutionally arbitrary and capricious . . ." He also stated he saw "no reason to anticipate that GW will not honor its commitment to construct, well before the expiration of the campus plan, additional on-campus dormitories with more than a sufficient number of beds to meet the Board's requirement."

The court decision did affirm that the District of Columbia has the right to regulate the land use of universities, including the BZA's capability to set an overall limit on the number of students. (The overall cap of 20,000 students has been reinforced by the decision.) Presumably, the BZA also can mandate that a certain percentage be housed within the campus boundaries, in this case 70%, allowing the Board "to take into account the 'number of students'" in determining what is objectionable to the neighborhood and its residents.

Many areas of the city are welcoming the decision on zoning regulations, since it applies to other campuses in D.C., as

Federal Judge, to page 8

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Guest Speaker:

Linda W. Cropp

Chairman
D.C. Council

Monday, April 29, 2002

The Melrose Hotel
2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
7:30 p.m.

(Next meeting: Monday, May 20, 2002)

Becker Beat



Attention Snachet

"Old and Just a Bit Cranky"? No Way!

One Saturday in early April, a merry band of Foggy Bottom residents sallied forth to clean, dig, sweep, prune and rake the west side of 26th Street from I to K Streets. It was the second such sallying-forth, by neighbors who cherish the strip of green which is host to a bricked, benched and landscaped area I call the "patio," a dog park and a children's play area. Tools, trash-bags and gloves were supplied both by the participants and the city government (the latter came as promised to pick up the group's "gleanings"). Our thanks to Parks & Recreation's Gail Benjamin for her help.

As I looked up 26th Street while wielding my broom, I could not help but contemplate the incredible industry of this group, most of whom were at least 50 years of age, and many quite a bit older (including myself). None of the many students who live on 26th Street were among the workers. I was reminded of the not-very-kind but meant-to-be-funny references to Foggy Bottom residents in the April 1 edition of the GW Hatchet (entitled "The Snachet") and an earlier puzzling letter to the editor. We're the "viagra mili-



tia," the FBA and its president were alluded to in somewhat indelicate terms, and we'll soon be in the cemetery, making clear the way for GWU's manifest destiny: to occupy all of Foggy Bottom.

You know something? I didn't feel at all ancient that day, and it felt good to illustrate this neighborhood's vitality and determination to resist the planned and well-articulated intentions of the university administration to "run us out of town." We love this neighborhood, and we'll continue the fight to keep our unique and charming "hometown."

Monsignor, from page 1

He was born in Irvington, New Jersey, and was a member of the Xavieran Brothers prior to his ordination in 1979. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick officiated at the funeral services held at Little Flower, his first parish, with a vigil Mass the evening before at St. Stephen's.

Father Rob Panke, chaplain of the GW Newman Center, who resides at St. Stephen's, characterized Father Ken as "the best priest I've ever known, and one of the best men I know."



IONA Sets Meeting on Rx Drug Discount Cards

A forum has been scheduled by IONA Senior Services on the new prescription drug discount card programs, of special interest to senior citizens. At the forum representatives from pharmaceutical companies offering the discount cards will explain how their programs work and meet individually with participants. IONA hopes that eligible seniors will be able to achieve some reduction in the high costs of their medications.

The meeting is set for

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FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

Editor
Ad Manager
Contributors

Ellie Becker
Rita Champagne

Doug Abbey, Monika Bernstein, Roz Freund,
Marifran Langvardt, Jim McLeod,
Kate McLeod, Sheridan Strickland

To place ads, call Rita Champagne at 293-1439. Cost for classified ads 60 cents per word; a 2-inch high by 2-column wide ad—the smallest available, is \$38.50.

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Nominees for Olga Corey Award Sought

The FBA Board earlier this year established the criteria for an award in memory of Olga Corey, FBA Board member who died last fall. The

award is to be given "to an individual or group that has advanced the quality of residential life in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood. The Award identifies those efforts that promote community as a means of ensuring the unique/special character of Foggy Bottom." Suggestions may be sent to the FBA, c/o West End Library, 24th & L Streets, N.W., Washington, DC 20037. The first such award is planned for June of this year.



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New Trees Appear in FB

By Tom Bower

As you have probably noticed, the new trees which were promised for the long-vacant tree boxes have been planted on most of the streets in Foggy Bottom. According to the D.C. plan for street trees, New Hampshire Avenue and 24th and 25th Streets should have oak trees, while H and I Streets should have maples. We will know for sure when they leaf out. While the trees are small now, in a few years they will start to provide increased shade and soil-water retention, improving the air we breathe, cooling our summers, and improving the Potomac's water quality.

Attention Tree-Keepers!

Please, if a new tree is near your home, you need to water it once a week if we get good rains for the rest of the growing season, and twice a week or more so if we don't. The first few years in the life of a tree are critical for it to have a healthy and long life. To establish a good root system they need adequate water.

With the mulch left with the trees, form a bowl a couple of feet across around the trunk of the tree and add five gallons of water or so each time you water. You don't want to keep the spot wet or muddy as trees can drown, but

as dry as our soil is that should not be a problem. If you have any questions about tree care, please call me at 337-0810.

There were some boxes where trees were not supposed to be planted but were. When the city contractor had more trees than they were scheduled to plant they took some decision-making into their own hands and planted trees where the city had been told to leave the boxes alone. The Landscape Office has apologized. Having the trees is good; abusing neighborhood planning efforts is not.

There are still trees with obvious structural problems which need to be removed and the city will do this. Also, thanks to the support of the Casey Tree Foundation there will be further tree plantings in the future.

Letters

Is Foggy Bottom Going to the Dogs?

Maintaining and, where possible, improving our quality of life is a shared goal of all conscientious Foggy Bottom residents. To this end, I periodically deal with university students whose off-campus behavior disturbs my

Letters, to page 8

FB Cleanup Scheduled by GW Students

By Alice Lingo

The Student Association, Residence Hall Association, and College Republicans at GWU are holding their annual Spring Foggy Bottom Cleanup on Sunday, April 28, at 11:30 a.m. The groups hope to bring together students, neighborhood residents, School Without Walls highschoolers, and GWU administrators in an act of true community in cleaning up the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the students and the longtime Foggy Bottom residents to work together with a common goal: not only of keeping our community clean and beautiful, but of respecting each other and learning from each other."

This event, which has been a continuing tradition over the past four years, will be held on Sunday, April 28. The theme of the day is "Make Every Day A Foggy Bottom Cleanup," an idea attributed to Foggy Bottom residents Ellie Becker and Rita Champagne who commit themselves to community beautification on a daily basis! The festivities will begin at

Council Chair Cropp To Speak at FBA Meeting

Linda W. Cropp will be the featured speaker at the April Foggy Bottom meeting, to be held on Monday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Mrs. Cropp chairs the Council of the District of Columbia, a post she has held since winning a special election in 1997, after serving as an at-large member for seven years. Prior to her election to the Council, Mrs. Cropp was a District public school teacher and guidance counselor, and served as a member, vice president, and president of the Board of Education.

During her years on the Council, her interest in health care issues has been prominent, with special attention being given to infant mortality, substance abuse, TB and HIV/Aids.

Mrs. Cropp is known for her talents as a consensus-builder, using that talent to keep the Councilmembers focused toward important goals. She has been heard to claim that "you can catch more flies with



honey than with vinegar," the age-old but always true adage.

It has been some years since Mrs. Cropp has spoken at an FBA meeting; her insight into current problems of and opportunities for the District will be welcome.

In addition, making informational presentations will be James Aldrich, Administration for Housing Regulation, Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, who will discuss tenants' rights and rent control; Lamar Sleight will provide information on the new Latter Day Saints' building at 2520 L Street.

11:30 a.m. in the GWU Marvin Center (5th floor) with a keynote speaker from Green Peace, sign-ups for a Red Cross Blood Drive to be held the next day, and a luncheon/pizza party. Then, at noon, the cleanup will begin. All participants will receive garbage bags and plastic gloves to clean up after the IMF protests the weekend prior as well as the GW

Spring Fling Festival the night before.

Neighbors are asked to contact Alice Lingo (ADLingo@gwu.edu or 994-7100) with any particular locations they feel need attention.

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Letter from London

The Queen Mum—"Just Bloody Lovely"

By Sheridan Strickland

I have attended or watched all the ceremonies surrounding the death of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. She was such a part of Britain for so long, most thought she would never die. Somehow her indomitable spirit would just keep her body going and going. It was not to be.

Some of the stories about her are legends, but she certainly set the standard for any monarch in terms of her sense of duty and her incredible grace. Not much more can be said about the indispensable encouragement she gave George VI when he was thrust upon the throne by his brother's abdication. And enough has been written about her daily wartime walks through bombed London neighborhoods. Even in America, I assume you have read all such stories over and over again, so I will not repeat them here.

to his grandmother, referred several times to her great sense of fun. So let me repeat some of the witty and outrageous incidents I have gleaned from various sources in the last few days.

Her wedding in 1923 was not broadcast on radio because men in public houses might be listening. This prohibition probably was not the bride's idea, since she is famous for her love of gin and Dubonnet. Once after touring a garden in London, she unexpectedly stayed on for tea. "I hear you like gin," her nervous hostess blurted out, instantly realizing her comment was tactless. Not to worry. The Queen Mother thought it delightful. "I hadn't realized I enjoyed that reputation," she replied. "But as I do, perhaps you could make it a large one!"

And a Great Sportswoman

It was well known that the Queen Mother took great pleasure in horse racing and built up her own successful steeplechasing stables.

But horse racing was not her only sport. Until late in

her 70s, she would put on waders and strike out thigh-deep after salmon in the river Birkhall near Balmoral. One day she was very late returning to her guests at the castle because she was trying to drag a 20-pound salmon back on her own. Her house parties were famous (or infamous). She loved charades and parlor games. She would make venerable statesmen like Lord Home or Lord Salisbury, her great friends, dance the conga, or play Old Maid or Racing Demon—at which she would cheat outrageously.

During the war, a firing range was improvised in the palace garden, which soon echoed to the rat-tat-tat of the King's determined Tommy-gun training. This was not sport, as there were several times during the war when a German invasion seemed imminent. The Queen joined in gun training with a will. She alarmed not only her staff by the enthusiasm with which she took to her daily target practice. Admiring the bulldog spirit it signified, Winston Churchill sent over a particularly lethal American revolver which became the Queen's favorite weapon.

The Queen Mother was sometimes characterized as living still in the Victorian era. Whether this is true or not I cannot say. But at least she was very aware of changed social mores. With great wit and delight she once said to her staff, many of whom were gay, "When the queens down there are ready, could they attend the old Queen upstairs?"

Adjusting to a New Queen

After George VI's death, the Queen Mother had to adjust to her daughter being the center of attention as Queen.

Perhaps realizing that Queen Elizabeth did not have her innate sense of fun, the Queen Mother would respond to chastisement from the Queen with a curt "Who do you think you are?" Once while lunching together at Clarence House, Queen Elizabeth remarked that she thought she might have a glass of wine. Her mother parried, "Is that wise? You know you have to reign this afternoon!"

On Saturday, I went down to Westminster Hall to see the Lying in State. I arrived at 8:30 a.m., and took my place in the queue that started on the South Bank at Westminster Bridge. It moved steadily along the river to the Lambeth Bridge, back over to the Westminster side of the Thames, then back toward Parliament through the park at the south end of the building, then doubled back on Milbank, and finally headed north toward Parliament and into the Hall. It took me three hours from when I first lined up. Later the queue would be six hours long; the Hall remained open all night to accommodate the mourners.

Was it worth it? You bet. The Hall is a somber huge structure, all dark wood and arched beams. But the aura was not of unmitigated sadness. The bright colors of her personal standard draped over the coffin, and the single wreath of white roses with a card on Buckingham Palace letterhead reading "In loving memory, Lilibet," gave a sweetness to the scene.

Nothing I can write will sum up the moment, but I think the oft-quoted line from an EastEnders when she saw the Queen picking her way through the rubble after another night of wartime bombing says it all. "She's just lovely, ain't she? Just bloody lovely!"

Washington Walks Seeks FB Stories

Washington Walks, sponsor of a weekly walking tour of Foggy Bottom during the summer, is inviting current and former Foggy Bottom residents to share their favorite neighborhood story, what they love about living in Foggy Bottom or any other historical anecdote. Homeowners in the historic district are encouraged to share any "house history" they might like to have included on the walk.

Topics covered during the FB tour include the neighborhood's dramatic change from a "working" waterfront community, home to industries like the Heurich Brewery and Washington Gas works, to its status as a prime residential location existing cheek-by-jowl with imposing institutions such as the George Washington University and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Photographs enable visitors to see where the Immaculate Conception School once stood, the original St. Stephen's Church, Ringgold House (the site of today's Columbia Hospital for Women), the Watergate Inn, gas storage tanks and many more fascinating sites that make the Foggy Bottom walk unforgettable. The walk concludes on the roof terrace of the Kennedy Center for a panoramic view of the neighborhood and Potomac River.

Watch the Foggy Bottom News for the Foggy Bottom Walk schedule. Residents wishing to contribute stories may contact Carolyn Crouch at 484-1565 or at info@washingtonwalks.com or via fax at 318-2275.



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Animal Advocate Speaking for Those Who Have No Voice

By Claire Ciftci

It's been two and a half years since Foggy Bottom became home for the little opossum family. Wandering out of Rock Creek Parkway, the frightened, harried little mother waddled into Hughes Mews with her tiny babies clinging to her back (having recently crawled out of her pouch).

For several weeks our court would be strewn with garbage—signs of a frantic young mom on a mission to find food in our trash for her family. Fortunately that soon stopped.

Some people find the opossum unattractive and would like to be rid of these furry residents. I find their startled-looking faces and round little ears rather endearing. The offensive-looking

prehensile tails are used to hang from tree branches. Bright pink noses and feet only enhance their appeal.

Zoo keepers informed me that if taken in while very young, they become wonderful little tame pets, and can even be trained to use a litter box. Like cats, these creatures groom themselves after eating.

Only one of the babies has survived. He and his mother forage almost every evening in my patio to my sheer delight. They devour cat food, bread and sweet buns.

Perhaps if you understood the ways of these nocturnal creatures you might be more tolerant of their ongoing plight just to survive. They are totally defenseless and are often prey to larger animals. To protect themselves when threatened, the wary opossum will "play dead." Hence the expression: "Playing Possum."

It seemed appropriate to introduce Pinocchio and Otis with the hope that they would

be allowed to live peacefully throughout their short life span.

It seemed necessary to tell their story to prevent further abuse from those who already have thrown stones at them as they made their way over patio fences. If seen, those human predators should be reported immediately to the Humane Society. It is animal cruelty and against the law. Photos of the act are positive proof.

Seniors: Want to take a course at GW?

By Ellie Becker

At long last, what appeared to be a well-kept secret has finally surfaced—how do Foggy Bottom seniors take courses at GW? After consulting with five or six officials over the past four or five years without response, the how-to info is finally in the hands of the Foggy Bottom News.

A fairly extensive list of courses is available to all GW alumni and senior citizens (over 60) residing in zip codes 20037 or 20006 (ID required). The per course audit fees are as follows: alumni under age 60, \$100; alumni over 60, \$50; and

Carpe the Diem

By Roz Freund

Cavernous, Clamorous, Cachophonous

I enter I.M. Pei's East Wing of the National Gallery of Art via the outdoor plaza. The connection with the main West Wing takes me, unexpectedly, across busy street traffic. A jolting experience. A harbinger of what is yet to come.

No illusions here about art and artists, and who is boss. This is Pei's Place and don't you forget it. (See his huge installation at the front door.)

Inside overhead is Alexander Calder's enormous stabile in moving competition with Pei's steel and glass grid

dome-of-a-ceiling.

Suddenly, I wonder where I am and what I am doing here. Where is Christo's exhibit?

People around me look dazed as they glide into a dead end, the one I just investigated.

I learn that Christo and Jeanne-Claude are upstairs, there revealing 40 years of covered installations. I go upstairs. I'm there 10 minutes and I don't care about Christo. I'm getting the world's largest headache.

So downstairs to the basement level I go . . . they call it a concourse, but to me it's a basement. There I meet up with a conveyor belt. Yes, a conveyor belt. I board the belt and it drops me at the cafeteria, which is cavernous, clamorous and cachophonous.

I want out.

Foggy Bottom seniors, \$50. Some course fees may apply.

For the spring semester which began in January, courses in over 50 departments were offered. For information for the summer courses (beginning in May) or fall semester, contact the Alumni Course Audit Program, Alumni House, 1925 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20052. Jason Miller, Director of

Alumni Benefits and Services, will be happy to speak with FB residents interested in auditing one or more courses. Call him at 994-3987. Complete information is also available on line at www.gwu.edu/alumni/audit/index.html. Any person requesting information will be added to a contact list to receive the spring and fall course audit program schedules.

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Actions & Efforts

This month's A&E can truly be called a saga, reporting a happy ending after months replete with frustration and more than one bureaucratic surprise.

The happy ending was caused by Ralph Burr who, in March, became annoyed enough to start his journey through the Department of Public Works officialdom. His target was the illegal dumping of a mattress, storage cabinet and miscellaneous other junk on the public space east of 27th & Eye Streets behind the former Howard Johnson.

On March 11 he made his first call, and was told to leave a message with Charlene Barber, Ward 2 inspector for Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP). She was not to be heard from. He again called DPW on March 18, reached Deborah Alexander in Solid Waste Inspection Management, and found action. Inspector Alexander picked him up at his building and together they inspected the site.

His efforts and actions were rewarded on March 24 when the large items disappeared.

However, left behind was a large accumulation of trashy litter. He was informed when he called about it that it was the responsibility of Streets and Alleys to collect "the small stuff"! Two trucks and two crews needed??

The saga does not end—or more accurately begin—there.

On January 2 the writer called Vincent Spaulding, who heads Clean City USA. He advised me to call the Mayor's Citywide Call Center, and to call him back with the number assigned. I made that Call Center request that the material be picked up; a number was as-



FB Artist Helen Zughaib Has Exhibit

The paintings of Helen Zughaib, who lives on Virginia Avenue in Foggy Bottom, will be featured in an exhibit through May 25 at the International Visions Gallery on Connecticut Avenue (across from Woodley Park Metro). Zughaib paints with gouache and ink on board, and her background in the Middle East is reflected in

her work; she uses her neighborhood structures as subjects as well.

Zughaib shares the exhibit with Tim Davis, director and owner of the Gallery. Zughaib also was shown at the Meridian International Center as part of "True Colors: Meditations on the American Spirit," an exhibit by 68 artists "in response to September 11."

signed. A follow-up call went to the Call Center on January 18; on January 24 another call to Vincent Spaulding resulted in his suggestion to call David Dyer, SWEEP Division Chief. I called and left word. He was not to be heard from.

On February 7 another follow-up call to the Call Center; I was advised it would be referred to Curtis Edwards, a team leader, who "will forward it to Dyer's boss."

On February 15 I sent a fax to Leslie Hotaling's office detailing the above, and on February 19 Kay Phillips from the DPW Director's office called to advise me an inspector would visit the site and that she thought it would be taken care of. (The DPW Director wrote me on April 2 advising of the March 27 cleanup.)

Early in March another call to 727-1000; they suggested I call later. That same day my faulty notes indicate another call from or to a DPW inspector. At that point

I quit. Fortunately, Ralph Burr did not.

The response from the DPW Director's office: "Mea culpa. Our on-time delivery is improving. However, in this case we clearly didn't do a thorough job, and we have coordination issues which need to be addressed. Also, from a customer service standpoint, unreturned calls are simply not acceptable." The DPW spokesperson, Mary Myers, indicated they are looking carefully into the whys and wherefores of the January-March non-action.

FBA Nominating Committee Named

At the March meeting of the FBA, the membership of the Nominating Committee was approved by vote of FBA members in attendance. The committee will be composed of Jacqueline Lemire as chair, Charlie Clapp, Ron Cocome, Janet Farbstein, Jeff Marootian, and Craig Pascal. Its first meeting was scheduled for April 25.

Foggy Bottom Folks

We have always known it! But the whole city found out in March that the firefighters at Engine Co. 23 on G Street are heroes, one and all. One in particular was highlighted by being awarded a gold medal as part of the Mayor's Meritorious Service Awards ceremony. **Colin Montgomery**, a firefighter and emergency medical technician, leapt into the Potomac River and rescued a man who had fallen from a boat and was entangled in ropes under water. Firefighter Montgomery, pictured in the Washington Post, seemed to tower over Mayor Williams and also to have an inch or two on the very tall Fire Chief Ronnie Few.

Another "It's Not Fair" item. One of our residents woke up early on the day his house was to be open for

prospective buyers. (He does not want to leave FB but would prefer condo living now.) But lo and behold, in front of his house reposed an expired possum, just what he didn't need on any day, but especially that one. While pondering what to do about the corpse, he returned to his house for a cup of coffee and later found that some good neighbor had disposed of it.

And around the corner, **Pat Patterson** is still puzzling over the bicycle secured to his front yard fence, and left there for several days. The days passed by, the rains came, and still it stayed. The owner, when he finally picked it up, indicated he had been ill, but saw no reason why he should not have parked it there attached to Pat's fence. Pat, an MPD officer he discussed it with, and other neighbors agreed it took a lot of hutzpah.

Foggy Bottom/West End Welcomes—

Dark Horse Restaurant Opens April 5

A new restaurant and bar, The Dark Horse, opened April 5 at 2519 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. The owner, Jordan Cappolla, has completely redecorated the interior and is serving cocktails, luncheon and dinner on two floors. There are tables for 80 persons, and each floor has a bar with TV sets (a horserace was showing on the TV on the opening Saturday evening). The music is provided by satellite radio with speakers easily accessible to control volume.

The food fare being offered includes appetizers, sandwiches, soups, and salads.

One sandwich offered was smoked turkey & avocado with Swiss cheese; the nine entrees included filet mignon, chicken, Cajun crab cakes and pasta. Students make up the wait staff, fresh-looking and eager to please.

Jordan is a genial host; he also looks forward to warm weather when his outdoor seating can be utilized.

New Residences Open at Park Hyatt

A new rental apartment building has opened adjacent to the Park Hyatt Hotel on 24th Street between M and N Streets. The 85-unit building features 24 floor plans, including one- and two-bedroom units, as well as several with dens. A small number of furnished apartments will be available for short-term rental. The rents range from \$1750 to \$4100 per month, and as of mid-March four units were occupied.

The amenities of the adjacent hotel are all available to the tenants of the new building, including its pool, spa, fitness and business centers, room service and valet parking.

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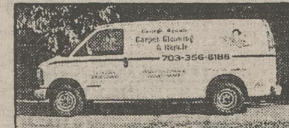
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Update

Elliott School Amenities Still "Deficient"

The longstanding controversy over the legality of the construction of the Elliott School by GWU at 1927 E Street continues, as well as arguments over the amenities being offered by the university. (Amenities are required of developers of planned unit developments to "compensate" for the additional property size and density a PUD allows.)

The university has put forth on several occasions its suggested amenities. Some have been turned down by the Zoning Commission and most have been termed inadequate by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, the Foggy Bottom Association and other residents.

The latest offering was in late March, and included suggestions from the West End Citizens Association. One of the WECA suggestions is a contribution to make space for Sholl's Cafeteria to relocate in the Hall on Virginia Avenue, a GW dorm, or possibly an-

other local site for the recently-closed restaurant. There would also be funds available to Sholl's for "providing meals at reduced rates for the needy elderly and other low income residents." ANC Commissioner Richard Price pointed out at the ANC meeting that such a program is already in place at St. Mary's Court, in addition to the breakfast program at Western Presbyterian Church. Both the FBA and residents of Watergate feel that locating Sholl's on Virginia Avenue would have a negative impact on the neighborhood.

One resident of the Watergate decried the fact that his residential complex, which is now threatened by a low-income/homeless feeding program across the street, was not given notice; was not consulted by WECA; nor is it allowed standing in the case. Further, asked Ron Cocome, "What reasonableness is there in any system which permits a group with a few active members to decide for an entire community, while our Cooperative [apartment building], alone representing well over 300 Foggy Bottom residents, goes unheard?"

Another amenity involves the School Without Walls; its property is coveted by the University and is targeted in the campus plan for part of its housing requirements. School officials are currently being urged to agree to let GWU acquire the property in exchange for additional development rights and an improved school building there or at another site.

Other suggestions put forth by the University include a parttime staff person for the West End Library in the area of community outreach; this was suggested, however, without consulting with the West End Librarian.

Jacqueline Lemire, FBA President, noted in a statement to the ANC Chair that the amenities offered do not "in any way equal the economic gain to GWU by allowing it to increase the height and density of the building it is constructing at 1957 E." The statement called the package "gravely deficient both in terms of addressing needs in the community and in resources proffered to meet those needs..."

A Zoning Commission hearing on this project is set for May 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Nighttime Parking Eased by Council

The City Council has approved legislation permitting residential parking permit holders to park at night in normally illegal areas. From 10:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., parking will be permitted in loading zones except at hotels, places designated as entrances except at hospitals, and within 25 feet of intersections (closer than the 40 feet allowed by law).

Councilmember Carol Schwartz introduced the legislation in January to give relief to residents in heavily parked areas. The full Council recently passed the bill.

GW as Host to CNN's "Crossfire"

GW's new Media and Public Affairs Building is hosting CNN's political debate program, "Crossfire." The newly revamped, one-hour show airs live daily at 7:00 p.m.

James Carville, Paul Begala, Robert Novak and Tucker Carlson will "take on" Congressional leaders, administration officials, Cabinet secretaries, and other "politicos." The university is now

establishing an "e-ticketing" process, and is seeking to make the program "a premium destination" for conference attendees and tourists visiting D.C. For information contact the Office of University Relations at 994-6460.

Daycare, from page 1

to use the daycare space for church purposes. Miller was also faced with the difficulty of finding a new and reasonable location, as well as finding and keeping suitable employees.

The center has been a cherished part of the neighborhood, and Cathy Miller's efforts and contributions, financial and otherwise, to the children's park on 26th Street, cannot be minimized. **They will be missed!**

Note: Cathy has put all the center's furnishings up for sale, including toys, puzzles, small chairs and tables, etc., as well as a Kenmore refrigerator and dishwasher. Call 338-6389.



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Neighborhood Datebook

Saturday, April 27: Opening Reception for exhibit of paintings by Tim Davis and Helen Zughaib at International Visions Gallery, 2629 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Ms. Zughaib lives on Virginia Avenue in Foggy Bottom. Gallery hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m. Reception, 6:30-9:00 p.m.*

Sunday, April 28: Spring Foggy Bottom Cleanup, sponsored by the GW Student Association, Residence Hall Association, and College Republicans. The event begins on the 5th floor of Marvin Center with a keynote speaker from Green Peace and a luncheon/pizza party, followed by the cleanup at 12:00 noon. Contact: Alice Lingo, 994-7100 or ADLingo@gwu.edu. Marvin Center, 21st & H Streets, N.W. 11:30 a.m.*

Monday, April 29: Foggy Bottom Association monthly meeting, with D.C. Council Chair Linda Cropp as featured speaker. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m. Also appearing are James Aldrich of DCRA on tenants' rights and rent control, and Lamar Sleight on the new Latter Day Saints' building on L Street.*

Thursday, May 2: "Escape from Affluenza," a video documentary regarding our nation's transformation from prizing thriftiness to "the ultimate consumer society." St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 728 23rd Street, N.W. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 3: Opening of "People Observed" by painter Josh Holland and "Le Temps Retrouve" by photographer Michelle Rogers, at the Washington Arts Club, 2017 I Street, N.W. Contact: 331-7282. Both shows run through June 1. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday, until 2:00 p.m. Opening reception from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, May 3-4: The GWU Department of Theatre and Dance presents "5 Views—5 Companies" in performance at the Marvin Center Theater. The five groups are Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Company, ClancyWorks, Mills/Buckley/works, Kista Tucker Dance Company, and Maida Withers Dance Construction Company. Contact: 994-6178. \$12 general admission, \$8 students, at 432-SEAT. Marvin Center Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. (enter on H Street). 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 6: Forum on Prescription Drug Discount Cards, sponsored by IONA Senior Services. IONA, 4125 Albe-marle Street, N.W. Contact: 895-0248. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.*

Friday, May 10: St. Mary's Court Spring Bazaar, featuring clothing, white elephant items, plus a bake sale. Luncheon will also be served in the outdoor area of the Court, if the weather

Letters, from page 3

peace and that of my immediate neighbors. Regrettably, another quality-of-life issue has surfaced for those who reside near our community park in the 900 block of 26th Street. This problem takes the form of a small handful of pet owners who allow their dogs to disturb our peace.

We now face a situation where a growing number of pet owners visit the dog park on a regular basis. But there is a problem when one individual or a group of pet owners

allows their dogs to mar the tranquility of our neighborhood. An occasional dog bark is understandable and tolerable. However, residents in proximity to the park cannot peacefully read, study, watch TV, enjoy a meal, or listen to music when exposed to continuous dog-barking, with no effort on the part of the pets' owners to control the noise.

Let me emphasize that most dog owners are truly responsible individuals who make the extra effort to peacefully coexist in our densely-popu-

lated community. This letter is directed to the small minority who, even after polite requests to show some consideration to their neighbors, seem unwilling or unable to control their pets' behavior. These are the individuals who reflect poorly on responsible dog-owners and show a willful lack of regard for our quality of life.

Just as we insist that students behave responsibly, dog-owners must realize their civic obligations to our community.

Lawrence R. Impett
26th Street

permits the use of the grill for hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. Donations for the sale should be directed to Margaret Pully, St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. Contact: 223-5712. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15: Foggy Bottom/West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting. State Plaza Hotel, 2117 F Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 16: The Wagner Society is sponsoring "The Wonderful World of Grand Opera . . . How It All Happens," by Winnie Klotz, official photographer of the Metropolitan Opera. The lecture will be illustrated by her own photographs, and include an intimate, backstage look at the way an opera is produced at the Metropolitan. Contact: 364-7141. Fungler Hall, 2201 G Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.*

Monday, May 20: Foggy Bottom Association monthly meeting. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30. (This meeting is one week earlier than usual due to Memorial Day.)

*See article on this listing elsewhere in this issue.

Federal Judge, from page 1

well as other parts of the country. A striking down of the city's zoning and land use rights would have had major repercussions for residents near the other four large universities in Washington. FBA Vice President Barbara Spillinger, in the Georgetown Current, hailed the decision as "very important for the city as a whole."

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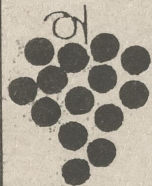
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